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NPL-W7-2-128

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National Priorities List

Superfund hazardous waste site listed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) as amended in 1986

HIMCO, INC., DUMP
Elkhart, Indiana

The Himco, Inc., Dump covers approximately 40 acres at County Road 10 and the Napanee Extension in the Town of Elkhart, Elkhart County, Indiana. The privately owned site operated between 1960 and September 1976. A marshy area was excavated to a depth of 10 to 20 feet, and general refuse and medical and pharmaceutical wastes were buried in the resulting hole. Industrial waste may also have been landfilled, according to the company and a report prepared by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Elkhart Water Works. The owner stated that in the mid-1960s he received a permit from the city to accept municipal waste from northwest Elkhart County.

During an inspection in July 1984, EPA observed several streams of leachate. The landfill was about 15 feet above the original ground level at the center, sloping to 5 feet at the edges. Much of the landfill was covered with sand. Isolated spots of stressed vegetation were visible. Sulfur odors were strong.

EPA detected cobalt, selenium, beryllium, cadmium, copper, manganese, and other metals in monitoring wells downgradient of the site. The results corroborated analyses of residential wells conducted in 1974 by the State, which showed high manganese levels.

In 1974, the State Health Commissioner advised the owner to drill deep wells to replace six contaminated shallow residential wells. In 1975, the owner signed a Consent Agreement (adopted by the Stream Pollution Control Board) that resulted in the closing of the dump in September 1976.

The dump is located above a continuous portion of the shallow aquifer system that is the sole source of drinking water for the community. A conservative estimate is that wells within 3 miles of the site serving 20,000 people may be affected.

A 1980 hydrogeologic study of the area by the U.S. Geological Survey led EPA to install two interceptor wells to divert contaminated ground water away from Elkhart's North Main Street Well Field approximately 1.5 miles southeast of the site. The interceptor wells have permits under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System to discharge into nearby Christiana Creek.